

SPECTER PRESS CONFERENCE  
Attendance  
October 16, 1981

TV - Cox Broadcasting (Andrea)

TV - WTXI Pittsburgh

✓ RKO - Radio (Chuck)

✓ Public Affairs Broadcasting DK

Philadelphia Inquirer (Aaron Epstein) - Knight Ridder

AP (Gene Grabowski)

KDKA - TV & Radio Westinghouse (Pat Sagon)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette (Milton Jacques)

✓ Philly Station Radio KYW

✓ Radio - Mutual Broadcasting (Charlotte Blount)

✓ KQV all news Radio Pittsburgh (Rose O'Connor)

Newhouse News Service - regular (Nick Rood)

Pittsburgh Press (Kathy Keily)

Toledo Blade (Matt)

(At bottom of sheet, Dan has list of people who didn't show up:

State News, Dave Runkel

Baltimore Sun, Pam Glass,

Daniel Edelman, Sternberg, Chambers, Petrick, Luban, Lisa Weltey(?).

3 TV  
6 Paper  
5 radio

ARLEN SPECTER

October 1, 1981

Press Conference in S-126.

Comment "I guess Arlen is taking this seriously." Reply "If I were the bottom man on Judiciary I'd take it seriously."

"I have today introduced in the Senate... lists 3 bills, 3rd dealt with "rehabilitation aspect" of

In my tour as DA in Philadelphia I had the opportunity to visit prisons.

" faith effort...to turn out people who are not functional illiterates or vocational training... This will have to be refined... puts a burden on states, will have to be looked into."

Wants to talk about hearings before Juvenile Justice Commission. There is a part where I think it is possible to save these juveniles and save society... A very complex subject...we're working on it.

I've been in the arena of crime fighting for a long time and that there is a small group of people who diagnosis, classify and rehabilitate

"Tough sentences for tough criminals."

Problem of street crime is virtually e.g. to net security, wt. threats and Am people sick and tired of crime and no significant efforts made in street crime, states incapable of doing these civil rights. Need tenacity and toughness.

Question - Aren't prisons crowded already and no help.

Answer - There is space for career criminals. The issue is which criminals should be incarcerated--problem is to separate individual from society.

Question - to get federal government out of regulation, what response on Capitol Hill.

Answer - favorable response concern about crime and crime not dealt with

on state level. There's great concern about crime. Next to economic recovery, it's second issue. Maybe more important than national defense, inflation and interest rates... You often hear that there's nothing federal government can do about crime - president spoke - was vibrant but specific suggestions did not go beyond Presidential Task Force---talked about earlier crime commissions - There's really been no major to deal with violent crime in a new way." State courts - "customarily a slap on the wrist". There's a lot more toughness in the federal courts... It's time for federal government to get into problem of street crime robberies and burglaries."

Question - What about expense for prisons?

Answer - If there's something county is prepared to spend on is national security. If plan has realistic li of dealing with federal cover, people are ready to pay for it."

Question - How much impact would it have - there are qualifiers in the bill. How many cases would become career criminals?

Answer - States difference, protective legislation to give states authority in 1st . In Philly Delaware Valley, 2000 career criminal..federal system could deal with 200 cases. Very significant impact. If you started with 200-300 worst in Philly significant impact. And if you moved to the 2500 in Delaware Valley--2000 total in first year. Lowell Jensen said federal attorneys could handle that many cases.

"We debated long and hard whether it should be 3rd or 4th offense. We decided 3 strikes and you're out. State has had two chances to

We could have made it the first offense but decided to give the states 2 bites of the apple.

Question - Of 30000 in Philly, how many did not prosecute?

Answer - Answer "28,416 - no" we ended up concentrating on 6-8,000, 500 homicides/yr. 2000 robbery cases and many thousand of burglary.

Question - Which federal officials told you prisons would take the load?

Answer - Carlson - Cuban in Atlanta - Leavenworth.

Question - How effective Thornburg's proposal?

Answer - His don't deal with career criminal.

Mandatory sentence failed in PA.

Question - How much support in Congress?

Answer - lots of support. Thurmond, Kennedy were prime sponsors of mandatory sentencing bill. Talking to no. of colleagues and found a good deal of support.

Said PA may come to mandatory sentencing.

We were explaining federal standards for state court sentencing - too many constitutional problems... Ideas advanced here come out of long thought process... He talked about his experience in trying to get state judges to give tough sentences. There's room in post sentencing.

Question - Problem with quality of Judiciary.

Answer - yes, it is - quality of judiciary affects sentencing. Other problem is slowness of state courts. "It is a problem that has been too busy for the states. The States have not been able to deal with the problem.